AUGUSTA REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION STUDY JOINT TECHNICAL COORDINATING COMMITTEE AND CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING ROOM 802, MUNICIPAL BUILDING, AUGUSTA, GEORGIA THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 10, 2010, 10:00 A.M.

THOSE PRESENT:

Augusta-Richmond Co. Planning CommissionCity of AugustaGeorge PattyDavid GriffithPaul DeCampSteve CassellMarya MoultrieSharon DotteryLois Schmidt

CAC Jim Frierson
Don Skinner Kevin Gantt
Walter Lamb Brad Reynolds
Butch Gallop

Willie Bell

City of North Augusta
Skip Grkovic

GA DOT

Cissy McNure Aiken County
Vonda Everett Gerald Jefferson

Ulysses Mitchell
Reuben Woods
City of Aiken
Karen Quarles
Sandra Korbelik

Columbia County FHWA

Glen Bollinger

Andy Edwards
Other Corbin Davis

Shontrill Baskin, CSRA RC

WELCOME and introductions

1. Consider approval of the minutes of the Joint Technical Coordinating Committee and Citizens Advisory Committee meeting held on November 12, 2009.

CAC – Mr. Lamb moved to approve the minutes of November 12, 2009. Mr. Gallop seconded. The motion was approved unanimously.

TCC - Mrs. Korbelik moved to approve the minutes of November 12, 2009. Mr. Woods seconded. The motion was approved unanimously.

2. Consider recommending approval of the Final 2011 Unified Planning Work Program. (See attachment)

Mr. DeCamp presented this item. In December, the draft Unified Planning Work Program was distributed. Since that time, the content of the UPWP was sent to the participating agencies for review. There were no significant comments received. Aiken County made a few minor edits to the narrative that did not affect any of the work elements. A ten page summary was included in the agenda package outlining each of the work elements in the UPWP and a budget for each. None of the budget amounts have changed from the draft. We are still working off the budget amounts from last year's UPWP budget. Since we have not received revised figures from GA DOT, there is a chance there may be some changes to the budget after final approval. Any changes will be brought back to you at that time if necessary. The major activities on or after July 1, 2010 will be the completing the Long Range Transportation Plan update, updating the TIP, increasing air quality education and outreach activities, and the annual update of the Congestion Management Study. In addition to the LRTP update, some of the ongoing special studies in Aiken County will either be carried on or completed during the next program year.

CAC – Mr. Gallop moved to recommend approval of the final 2011 UPWP. Mr. Lamb seconded. The motion was approved unanimously.

TCC – Mr. Grkovic moved to recommend approval of the final 2011 UPWP. Mrs. Korbelik seconded. The motion was approved unanimously.

3. Consider amending the ARTS Public Participation Plan to allow for a 15-day public review and comment period in special circumstances. Special circumstances would be limited to instances in which time constraints would cause the MPO to miss a deadline for approval of a project or projects.

Mr. DeCamp presented this item. Currently our participation plan calls for a thirty-day review and comment period. The reason we are requesting the addition of this language was generated by a possibility there will be a second round of stimulus funding and there may be a short time frame in which to act on some of the funding available. This will be strictly limited to instances where a thirty-day review period might cause us to miss a critical deadline. Otherwise, in the vast majority of cases, the thirty-day review will be enforced.

CAC-Mr. Gallop moved to recommend approval of this amendment to the Public Participation Plan. Mr. Lamb seconded. The motion was approved unanimously.

TCC – Mr. Grkovic moved to recommend approval of this amendment to the Public Participation Plan. Mrs. Korbelik seconded. The motion was approved unanimously.

4. Status of ARRA Funded Projects.

Mr. Jefferson presented this item for the Aiken County portion. The ARTS newsletter listed the ARRA projects for Aiken County.

The North Augusta projects are all resurfacing projects. The contract is expected to be let in March with a completion date of around October. In Aiken, the original scope was for drainage and streetscapes and signal upgrades. The drainage and streetscape projects were scrapped due to escalating costs leaving only signal projects. There are a total of 17 signal signals on Whiskey Road from Ola Hitt to Brookhaven Drive that will be upgraded. This contract will be let in April. One surfacing project will be from Valley Road to York Street.

Both North Augusta and the City of Aiken received a share of the TMA allocation. They split the allocation 50/50 with each receiving \$1.4 million.

Mr. DeCamp presented the Georgia portion of this item. The State of Georgia was allocated monies to spend on eligible projects anywhere in the State. Of that funding, approximately \$21 million is going to projects in

Richmond and Columbia Counties. In Richmond County there are six resurfacing projects and the widening of Alexander Drive. The Alexander Drive project should be let next week. The US 1 Deans Bridge Road resurfacing from near Fort Gordon to near the Jefferson County line project has been underway for a while.

In Columbia County the bridge construction over Euchee Creek on SR 223 is underway. The resurfacing projects will probably not get underway until the weather is a little better. All the projects have been awarded.

Of the \$8.5 million sub-allocated to the MPO is going to nine resurfacing projects - five in Columbia County and four in Richmond County. And the signal upgrade to Broad Street in Augusta counts for the remainder of that funding. These projects are well on their way for final authorization by FHWA and we anticipate them to go to bid within the next 2-3 weeks. The signal project will have a May letting.

Mr. Edwards asked if the projects are broken out in the Transportation Improvement Program. The projects were approved in December 2009 are listed individually in the current TIP, which is at the Governor's Office for approval.

5. Status of Projects:

(a) Georgia Highways

Mrs. Everett presented this item. There are no major changes since the last update. The one project scheduled to be let in the next three months is the signal upgrade on Broad Street, which is scheduled to be let on May 21, 2010.

Project updates include:

- William Few Parkway Extension The FONSI has been approved. Comments received from FHWA on the CLOMR are being addressed
- Flowing Wells Road Widening The work on this project has stopped due to funding issues.
- Old Petersburg / Old Evans Road Widening Right-of-Way acquisition has resumed. 202 of 284 parcels have been acquired.
- Wrightsboro Road Widening Right-of-Way acquisition has resumed. 132 of 182 parcels have been acquired. Final Plans are 80% complete.
- I-520 from Gordon Highway to US 1 (Deans Bridge Road) Right-of-way plans are under review.
- Windsor Spring Road Widening (Phases IV and V) Right of way authorization is on hold until a Noise Study is redone.
- SR 28 at Laney-Walker Blvd. Ext. / Riverfront Drive Intersection Improvements preliminary plans underway
- SR 56/Mike Padgett Hwy. Widening from Bennock Mill Road to Old Waynesboro Road Environmental is underway.

On February 18, 2010 a public open house is scheduled to be held at the Williams Memorial CME Church on the 15th Street widening project. A notice was sent out and posted to the ARTS website.

(b) South Carolina Highways

Mr. Gantt presented this item. Three projects were discussed at the ARTS Subcommittee meeting last week.

- The Silver Bluff / Doughtery Road intersection project was let and the bids were too high. This will let again in the May letting.
- Silver Bluff corridor improvements moving forward with design schedule. There is a tentative letting at the end of 2011 or spring of 2012. This is still flexible at this point. Right of way and environmental can delay this schedule

• Walnut Lane - There was some confusion about putting this project in the STIP. The proper funding was not available to pursue the project. The problem will be addressed and will hopefully be on the April agenda to be able to move forward.

(c) Augusta Public Transit

Mrs. Dottery presented this item. Mr. Johnson is still out on medical leave. The ARRA funds were received for capital purchases. Three new vehicles have been purchased for the fixed route service. These vehicles should be ready by September. Fare boxes have been ordered for all the buses. Engines and bike racks will be ordered soon.

(d) Aiken County Transit

There was no one available to present this item. Mrs. Bassham indicated in an email that there was no change from the last meeting.

6. Update on Special Studies Projects:

(a) ARTS Long Range Transportation Plan

Ms. Moultrie presented this item. We are continuing to move forward on the LRTP with the consultant Wilbur Smith and Associates. A stakeholders' meeting is scheduled for February 15 and public information meetings are scheduled for February 16, 2010 and March 9, 2010. The next public meeting will be held in the Municipal Building, Superior Courtroom 2 from 5 to 7 pm. The meeting will be a drop-in format with a formal presentation at 6 pm. We are continuing to focus on efforts to reach our environmental justice communites. Additionally, we are continuing to receive survey results and are currently working with GDOT to finalize the transportation model networks for the ARTs area.

(b) Special Studies in Aiken County

Mr. Jefferson presented this item. The US 1 / US 78 study has been approved by South Carolina DOT and is in the process of being advertised by the Aiken County Procurement Department. The corridor study area is from the Savannah River to SC 118 / Hitchcock Parkway. We will be looking at the corridor because of all the economic development along the corridor in the last ten years warrants the study. Traffic on the thoroughfare is increasing so we want to look at the land use as well a bike and pedestrian plan will be a small element in the study.

The Northside Road corridor study being coordinated by the City of Aiken should be completed in about two months. Wilbur Smith is the consultant on this study.

The request for proposals has not been issued for the SC 19 corridor study. Plans are to piggyback off the results of the Northside Road corridor study for this one. This will cover from I-20 to Hampton Avenue in the City of Aiken.

Wilbur Smith is the consultant for the county travel demand model study. All the economic data has been submitted. They are part of the Long Range Transportation Plan also, looking for different networks and will be completing the regional travel demand model for the South Carolina side of ARTS within the next few weeks.

7 Update on Air Quality Initiatives

(a) Aiken County

Mr. Jefferson presented this item. North Augusta is still pursuing a potential Park and Ride Facility. Details are being worked out for a location on the northwest quadrant on Exit 5 which is a four acre parcel that SCDOT owns. Funding has not been secured. There is a variety of sources, including private industry. The preliminary design completed has for 200 spaces and two bus shelter facilities. This will be a low impact development for storm drainage. SCE&G is prepared to donate solar fixtures for lighting. Bridgestone and SRS have indicated a willingness to use the facility for car pooling purposes. Cost estimate including landscaping, curb and gutter is currently \$800,000. Piecing all of the funding sources together with the matches is going to be a challenge. Private funding may be used for maintenance due to certain tax breaks available for the businesses participating.

(b) Richmond County

Ms. Moultrie presented this item. A fact sheet handout was distributed to the committees. On January 6, 2010, EPA proposed to strengthen the national ambient air quality standards for ground level ozone, the main component of smog. The proposed revisions are based on scientific evidence about ozone and its effects on people and the environment. EPA is proposing to strengthen the 8-hour "primary" ozone standard and to establish a seasonal "secondary" standard for ground level ozone. Public meetings were held February 2 and 4, 2010 in Virginia, Texas and California. The will be excepting comments for 60 days following these meetings. Final standards will be issued by August 31, 2010. The States will make recommendations for areas to be designated by January 2011. EPA will make final area designations by July 2011 and the designations will become effective by August 2011. State Implementation Plans outlining how states will reduce pollution to meet the standards are due to EPA by December 2013. States are required to meet the primary standard with deadlines depending on the severity of the problem.

An Air Quality Stakeholders meeting is scheduled for March 11, 2010 at the SCE&G Misty Lakes Recreation Facility in North Augusta. The stakeholders are comprised of government, business and economic development representatives. The purpose of the meeting is to discuss the revised air quality standards and work toward finding solutions to our air quality issues.

8. Issues and Concerns

(a) Prior -

There were no prior issues or concerns to address.

(b) Current / New -

There were no current / new issues to address

ADDENDUM

9. Consider amending the ARTS Public Participation Plan by incorporating the Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) and Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Amendment Process published by Georgia DOT in December 2009.

Mr. DeCamp presented this item. This amendment process categorizes amendments into two different levels. One is called minor amendments and the other is called major amendments to the TIP and LRTP. GADOT is developing a consistent policy and strategy for dealing with amendments to both the State TIP and each region's TIP. All the MPOs will be encouraged to adopt this process. Projects that are categorized as minor amendments will not need to have formal adoption by the committees and will not need to be advertised for public review and comment. Minor amendments will be handled administratively and reported to the

committees. Major amendments will still have to be adopted by the committees and have review periods. The intent is to streamline the process and continue to make the public aware of major project amendments and to save money and time by handling minor projects administratively.

CAC - Mr. Gallop moved to approve this amendment to the ARTS Public Participation Plan. Mr. Bell seconded. The motion was approved unanimously

TCC - Mr. Grkovic moved to approve this amendment to the ARTS Public Participation Plan. Mr. Woods seconded. The motion was approved unanimously

10. Amend the FY 2010-13 ARTS Transportation Improvement Program and 2030 Long Range Transportation Plan by committing local funds to pay for any project costs exceeding the \$2,951,933.00 in stimulus program funds already programmed for the Broad Street Traffic Signal and Street Light upgrade project (P. I. #0009610).

Mr. DeCamp presented this item. The City of Augusta has written GA DOT that they will cover any overages on this project.

Mr. Cassell stated the project cost for the project is estimated at \$3,700,000. Stimulus funds available are \$2,951,933. Old SPLOST money was obligated for this project, so there is funding to cover any costs over the \$2.9 million available through stimulus funds..

CAC - Mr. Gallop moved to approve this amendment to the TIP and LRTP. Mr. Bell seconded. Unanimous approval.

TCC - Mrs. Korbelik moved to approve this amendment to the TIP and LRTP. Mr. Grkovic seconded. Unanimous approval.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

George Patty Project Director